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SEP 21 2007

Listing and Amendment of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of securing information being transferred from an information-storing device ~~interacting with~~ to a host device ~~through a port formed in the host device, the port being configured to receive the information-storing device~~, the method ~~comprises the acts of~~ comprising:

providing a port formed in the host device, the port allowing the information-storing device to be inserted into and removed from the host device by a user;

providing a port cover having a conductor formed therein along a path substantially encompassing an area between spaced edges of the port cover, wherein the port cover is moveable between a first position in which the port cover blocks the port and a second position in which the port cover enables access to the port;

positioning the port cover over the port and coupling it to the host device so as to block the port and place the port cover in the first position;

supplying an electric signal to the conductor formed in the port cover; and

monitoring the electric signal to ensure that the port cover is correctly ~~positioned and not breached~~ placed in the first position.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method set forth in claim 1, further ~~comprising the act~~ comprised of limiting interaction by [[a]] the host device with the information-storing device if the monitored electric signal exceeds a predetermined parameter.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the host device is a satellite receiver.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for use with a smart card, the apparatus comprising:

a host device capable of accessing information stored in the smart card, the host device including a housing having a port formed therein, the port ~~is configured to~~

~~receive~~ allowing the smart card to be inserted into and removed from the host device by a user, wherein when the smart card is inserted into the port, information can be transferred from the smart card to the host device;

a port cover removably coupled to the housing surrounding the port, wherein the port cover is adapted to be moveable back and forth between a first position in which the port cover physically blocks the port and a second position in which the port cover does not physically block the port; and

wherein the port cover comprises at least one conductor that is coupled to the host device and is operable for at least one of providing an electromagnetic shield across the port and ~~providing one or more conductors that are continuous absent an opening being formed in the port cover to break one of the conductors, and wherein the port cover is coupled to the host device in such a way that the host device detects discontinuity of~~ enabling the host device to detect if the port cover is placed in the first position.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus set forth in claim 4, wherein a data stream can be transferred between the smart card and the host device[[,]] when the smart card is inserted into the port and the port cover is ~~covering the port~~ placed in the first position.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus set forth in claim 4, wherein when the port cover is ~~installed~~ in the first position, electrical wires electrically connected to the smart card are limited from extending through the port from within the host device to outside of both the host device and the port cover.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus set forth in claim 4, wherein the housing includes a mounting flange extending peripherally ~~of~~ from the port, wherein when the port cover is attached to the mounted flange and placed in the first position, the port cover covers the entire port such that the housing and the port cover define an enclosure.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus set forth in claim 4, wherein:

~~at least one conductor is attached to the port cover;~~

an electric sensor ~~sensing~~ senses a breach of the at least one conductor; and

a limiting device ~~limiting~~ limits operation of the host device when the at least one conductor is breached.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus set forth in claim 4, wherein the at least one conductor comprises a plurality of wires arranged in parallel extending across the port cover.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus set forth in claim 4, wherein the at least one conductor comprises a conductive plate.